

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08  
CA-01 SCS-06 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00  
COME-00 OES-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00  
ACDA-12 /105 W

-----046513 171611Z /72

O 171521Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7156  
INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY  
OAC CAMP BUTLER OKINAWA JA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 06687

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PVOR, PINT, EFIS, JA, CH  
SUBJECT: IMPACT OF SENKAKU INCIDENT

REF: TOKYO 6516

1. MOFA HAS CONFIRMED THAT ALL CHINESE FISHING VESSELS  
HAVE NOW DEPARTED JAPANESE-CLAIMED TERRITORIAL WATERS OFF  
SENKAKU ISLANDS, FIVE DAYS AFTER FIRST ENTRY. (AS OF 4  
P.M. APRIL 17, HOWEVER, 140-ODD CHINESE BOATS WERE STILL  
IN AREA.) CHINESE ACTION ENDS IMMEDIATE CRISIS FOR  
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JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND, PRESUMABLY, SATURATION MEDIA  
COVERAGE WHICH HAS UPSTAGED ALL OTHER NEWS OVER PAST FEW  
DAYS.

2. CHINESE DEPARTURE CAME AFTER SERIES OF STATEMENTS BY  
PRC OFFICIALS APPEARED IN PRESS DENYING INCIDENT WAS  
DELIBERATE:

-- DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU WANG HSIAO-YUM REPORTEDLY TOLD JAPANESE MINISTER DONOWAKI APRIL 14 THAT CHINA DID NOT WANT DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES TO BE IMPEDED BY ISLAND ISSUE.

-- CHINESE VICE PREMIER KENG PIAO TOLD VISITING GROUP OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION MEMBERS LED BY HIDEO DEN APRIL 15 THAT SENKAKU INCIDENT WAS TOTALLY ACCIDENTAL, ADDING IT WOULD BE WISER TO LET MATTER DROP FOR TIME BEING RATHER THAN RENEW DISCUSSION OF ISSUE.

-- CHINESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR HSIAO HSIANG-TSIEN, MEETING WITH MOFA'S ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRGEN NAKAE APRIL 16, REITERATED THAT FISHING VESSELS' ENTRY INTO WATERS OFF SENKAKUS HAD BEEN ACCIDENTAL AND THAT JAPAN AND CHINA SHOULD TRY TO PREVENT SENKAKU ISSUE FROM OBSTRUCTING ENDEAVORS TO CONCLUDE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT).

3. WHILE JAPANESE REACTION TO INCIDENT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED, IT HAS BEEN FIRM AND INSISTENT THAT GOJ RETAIN JAPANESE CONTROL OVER ISLANDS. IN SLDP PARTY COUNCILS AND CABINET APRIL 14, THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF BUILDING LIGHTHOUSE, HELIPORT AND OTHER FACILITIES IN SENKAKUS AS WELL AS EXPEDITING CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE, HIGH-SPEED PATROL BOATS TO MONITOR SITUATION. MORE OUT-CONFIDENTIAL

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SPOKEN, APRIL 15 MEETING OF NATIONAL DEFENSE DIVISION OF LDP RESEARCH COUNCIL REPROACHED GOVERNMENT FOR ITS WEAK ATTITUDE ON SENKAKUS AND CALLED FOR GOJ TO DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO PROTECT JAPANESE SOVEREIGNTY; LDP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN NAKASONE WAS EVEN QUOTED AS SAYING INCIDENT ILLUSTRATED NEED FOR JAPAN TO REVISE CONSTITUTION TO ELIMINATE RESTRICTIONS ON DEFENSE FORCES.

4. EVEN BEFORE CHINESE SHIPS LEFT AREA, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO SIGN GOJ WOULD INTRODUCE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES, EXCEPT FOR PATROL PLANES. PM FUKUDA, SPEAKING AT CABINET MEETING APRIL 14 AND AGAIN STUMPING IN KYOTO APRIL 15, EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISMAY AT INCIDENT. REMINDING HIS LISTENERS THAT INCIDENT CAME AFTER MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OF SENSITIVE PFT NEGOTIATIONS, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN, BUT ADDED THAT CARE WOULD BE TAKEN NOT TO DAMAGE SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS AND THAT HIS INTENTION TO CONCLUDE PFT HAD NOT CHANGED.

5. NONETHELESS, IMPACT ON PFT PROSPECTS HAS BEEN IMMEDIATE AND ADVERSE. CHINESE BOATS ENTERED JAPANESE-CLAIMED TERRITORIAL WATERS ON VERY DAY THAT ASAHI RELEASED

POLL OF LDP DIET MEMBERS INDICATING, UNEXPECTEDLY, THAT PFT PROPONENTS WERE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN HALF OF THOSE RESPONDING. FOR TREATY OPPONENTS, WHO HAD ORIGINALLY RAISED SENKAKU ISSUE AS RED HERRING, CHINESE INCURSION CAME AS UNEXPECTED WINDFALL, AND FOURTH MEETING OF LDP'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH COUNCIL, SCHEDULED TO SECURE PARTY APPROVAL FOR REOPENING OF PFT NEGOTIATIONS, ADJOURNED APRIL 14 AFTER ONLY FIVE MINUTES. EVEN OPPOSITION PARTIES, WHICH HAVE UNANIMOUSLY FAVORED CONCLUSION OF PFT, DIVIDED ON ISSUE: DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS URGED STRONG PROTEST OF CHINESE ACTION,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TOKYO 06687

WHILE SOCIALISTS AND CLEAN GOVERNMENT PARTY COULD ONLY URGE SEPARATION OF PFT AND SENKAKU ISSUE. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ABE PROMISED THAT, AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, MATTERS WOULD BE HANDLED SEPARATELY, BUT THERE WERE NO PRESENT SIGNS, EITHER WITHIN GOVERNMENT OR LDPOF PROCEEDING WITH PFT.

6. COMMENT: WHILE STILL TOO EARLY TO GAUGE NATURE AND

FULL EXTENT OF SENKAKU INCIDENT ON JAPANESE POLITICAL SCENE,  
IT CLEARLY CAME AS SOMETHING OF SHOCK. IN CONTRAST TO  
SOVIETS, CHINESE HAVE BEEN PERCEIVED AS ESSENTIALLY BENIGN,  
IF NOT POSITIVELY FRIENDLY FORCE. FISHING FLEET INCURSION,  
HOWEVER, RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT PRC INTENTIONS,  
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WHICH CONTINUE TO MYSTIFY JAPANESE. INCIDENT ALSO  
FORCEFULLY REMINDED JAPANESE OF VULNERABILITY OF SENKAKUS,  
A POINT WHICH WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN IN ONGOING DEFENSE  
DISCUSSIONS. INCIDENT HAS LED TO SHELIVING OF PFT  
DISCUSSION FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE, FOR GOJ COULD NOT NOW  
PROCEED WITH TREATY DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT ADDRESSING  
TERRITORIAL ISSUE ON WHICH MUTUAL AGREEMENT SEEMS MOST  
UNLIKELY. WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE -- OR EVEN  
CONSIDERED DESIRABLE -- TO TRY TO PICK UP PFT PIECES WILL  
DEPEND ON PRC ATTITUDE, HOW QUICKLY JAPANESE EMOTIONS  
CALM DOWN, AND EXTENT OF PM FUKUDA'S DETERMINATION, ALWAYS  
LESS THAN WHOLEHEARTED. (INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE HE  
COULD NOT CONCEAL HIS DELIGHT AT FISHING FLEET INCURSION.)

7. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW ENDURING WIDER EFFECT OF  
INCIDENT WILL BE. JAPANESE PENCHANT FOR PUTTING MOST  
FAVORABLE POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION ON PRC FOREIGN POLICY  
ACTIONS MAY REASSERT ITSELF. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT  
WHATEVER FINAL DENOUEMENT MAY BE, GOJ WILL BE MORE WARY OF  
PRC IN FUTURE. IN THAT SENSE, TOO, PEKING'S ACTION AS  
VIEWED FROM TOKYO SEEMS BOTH INEXPLICABLE AND ILL-ADVISED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IMPACT OF SENKAKU INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PINT, EFIS, JA, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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